

WORKERS of the WORLD UNITE THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

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The Passing Show.

The capitalist system has outlived its usefulness. It is breaking up, and must go.

Australia is the happy hunting-ground of the shareholder and his political representative.

The sickening slobbery and toe-licking toadyism going on in Australia over Governors and such-like representatives of royalty parasites is enough to make sane people wish that Socialism would hurry along and abolish the lot.

Governors are sent here by the financiers of Britain to feel the loyal pulse. If our leading politicians did not lick their boots and grovel before them, they would pass the word along that Australians were disloyal, and not safe to lend cash to. And without frequent loans our politicians couldn't run the bogus capitalist show and the bubble would burst more quickly.

Prices are still going up, but the worker cannot hold his labor power off this market, and wait for a rise in price. If he does, the whole community shrieks at him as it did in the gas strike. He has to sell it at once, and it is a forced sale at that.

The Labor Party did one useful thing when it made the old Liberals fuse with the Conservatives. It has now taken the place of the Liberals, and it is for Socialists to demonstrate that Socialism will drive all the enemies into the one camp and then settle accounts with them.

The Labor Party and the Liberal Party are capitalist to the core. They are two heads that beat as one; two souls with but a single thought how to humbug and skin the workers.

The large capitalists of the Liberal Party may differ slightly in politics from the small capitalists of the Labour Party, but they are both united as one class against anything that favors the working class.

On March 10, the British Parliament was opened by King George. Amongst other things the royal speech contained the statement that "Steady progress was also being made towards the realisation of the Australian principle of defence." As conscription is the principle of the Australian system, the statement seems to imply that the Tories are making steady progress towards forcing conscription upon Britain, and are using the work of Messrs. Fisher, Pearce, and Hughes to assist in making the workers swallow the unpalatable dose.

When Wade was in power in N.S.W. he called upon the people to take sides with him against the miners during the great coal strike. During the recent gas strike Labor Premier McGowen proclaimed the strike a strike against the community, and called upon the community to aid him in defeating the men. He urged men to come forward and scab, and guaranteed to protect them if they did so.

United States recruiting officers are not satisfied with luring young men into the hellish service of the army and navy by means of gaudy posters intended to mislead the youth out of employment. They have adopted a bolder scheme. Each day hundreds of want ads inserted in daily newspapers are answered by recruiting officers, offering the applicant a steady "job" as a soldier or a sailor. When the Government sanctions such spider-like methods of seduction, it is time to salute the flag. "Appeal to Reason."

During the Gas Strike daily Press writers shed crocodile tears about the poor patients in the hospitals. They were

Arbitration, Conciliation, and Wages Boards—Or the Modern Knight Errant.



THE LADY (whom the imaginative may take to be "Labor"): "Alas, alas, Sir Knight, unless you slay yon Dragon, I am doomed! Since time immemorial it hath been his right to dine daily upon one maiden such as I."

THE DOUGHTY KNIGHT (whom one might identify with that other valiant warrior, "The Labour Party"): "Nay, nay, dear Lady, to slay him were a brutal and a messy work indeed, but forth shall I go, fearlessly holding him a conclave, and peradventure may persuade him to accept but half a maiden daily for his portion."

With acknowledgements to London Daily Herald.

loud in their denunciations of the gas men who struck regardless of the fact that the patients' food could not be cooked, nor the doctors' instruments sterilised, but the same gentlemen were silent regarding the poor patients of the Kurri-Kurri Hospital, where members of the Doctors' Union went on strike because non-unionist doctors were engaged to work with them. In that strike even the nurses handed in their notices out of sympathy with the B.M.A. doctors, and not a word of protest has so far been uttered on behalf of the patients.

In an article in the "Fortnightly," Sir Conan Doyle discusses the "German Menace." He tells us that he has never seriously believed in it, but he has come to see that "out of some mistaken impulse Germany may make a move that will plunge us into war." He has been led to this conclusion by reading a book by General von Bernhardi, a noted swash-buckler who wants war and defends it as a good thing in itself. Like all his class, Bernhardi is woefully ignorant of the consequences and economic futility of war, and it is a marvel how he has succeeded in scaring the author of "Sherlock Holmes" whose great faculty for analysis should have helped him to check Bernhardi's assertions. Sir Conan advocates the construction of the Channel Tunnel so that the French and English may easily combine against Germany, but it is questionable whether more good could not be accomplished by spending the money in educating these peoples in Norman Angell's principles.

The politicians are warming up to their work as the Federal elections draw near. Each side is painting the other in startling colors, and Joseph Cook will soon have a coat of as many colors as Joseph of Canaan had. The Minister for Home Affairs in the Federal Labor Government, Mr. O'Malley, recently considered the Liberals biologically, and came to the conclusion that the Liberal party is a "jelly wobbler," a kind of "cross between a city guinea-pig and a country blow-fly." The Liberals were greatly excited at the Minister's excursion into such an unusual branch of political sci-

ence and their principal organ replied in a leading article in which the Minister was described as an undignified clown and a few other odd things. Altogether the political situation, unlike the Balkan situation, is anything but "serious," it is, to use a common English word, decidedly funny.

Dr. Woodrow Wilson, the new President of America, says: "We have been calling our Government a Republic, and we have been living under the delusion that it is a representative government. That is the theory. But the fact is that we are not living under a representative government; we are living under a government of Party Bosses, who in secret conference determine what we shall have, and what we shall not have. The first, the immediate thing is to restore representative government." That is more easily said than done, for the Party Bosses themselves will have most to say in that, even as they had in the election of the President.

The Paris paper "L'Humanite" has made some remarkable disclosures of the brutal callousness of one of the generals commanding the French forces operating in Morocco. This officer was in command of a large body of troops that was proceeding to Kaldautlous, and finding his progress retarded by the wounded whom he had with him, ordered the surgeons to "finish them off." The surgeons absolutely refused to be parties to so inhuman butchery, and the general then abandoned the wounded to the care of ten Alpine chasseurs, all of whom were subsequently massacred by the Moors. According to General Sherman, "War is hell." He might have added: And fiends make and engage in it.

Mr. P. H. Illingworth, M.P., chief Liberal whip of the British House of Commons, in a speech at Manchester lately, denounced the attacks being made on the Territorial forces. He said, "if voluntarism is destroyed, we shall be accused of aggression, and the Continental nations will pile up armaments. We shall then be summoned to reply, and so the 'Devil's Dance' will continue. The attempt to

stampede the country into conscription, was an infamous crime against mankind, which the Liberals would energetically resist." Senator Pearce, Prime Minister Fisher, and all who have helped to stampede Australia into conscription ought to know that they are fighting with the Tories. Their policy is rejected by the Liberal and Labor Parties of Britain, and is only advocated by Lord Roberts and the Tory National Service League.

European monarchs are providing against the time when they will be retrenched. They don't believe in having all their eggs in one basket, and are looking kindly upon America as a safe place to put their money. A published list gives King George as having about one million pounds in American railways and industries; the Kaiser, about £750,000; the Czar, £1,200,000; and the Kings of Italy, Greece, Denmark, and the many various huge investments.

The soldiers at the military camp on the Federal capital site, had a cold time during the recent rains. A brigadier says: "I went through the whole of the lines one night and found the men absolutely cheerful and happy, and making the best of extremely unpleasant conditions. The very same thing occurred at the bivouac last year at Liverpool, when the men sat all through the night soaked to the skin, and again there was not a murmur in fact, they seemed rather to enjoy it than otherwise. I always felt that my brigade is at its best when facing difficulties and discomforts." To this Colonel Mackay adds: "I am able to support this by personal observation. It takes a good deal more to induce the Australian Light Horsemen to growl than the flooding of his tent and kit. Half a gill of rum was served out at night as a special ration to all the men, except the trainees, by order of the principal medical officer." It is a source of pleasure to the military officer to see men with every atom of discontent trained out of them, so that call-like they will put up with anything so long as it is called soldiering.

As Australia has entered upon the costly game of fattening the warship builders, a glance at some of the items of expenditure will not be out of place in showing what a good thing the armament manufacturers have got. A battleship starts with a heavy cost, and is costly in every detail. A 13.5 inch gun costs £14,000, and its life is 82 shots. Every time it is fired it depreciates over £170. The shell costs £110. Recently the battleships Thunderer and Orion engaged in target practice. In the practice 80 shots were fired at a cost of £11,200 for shells, and a depreciation cost of over £13,600 wear and tear on the guns. Total, £24,800 for the practice. The U.S. is building a dreadnought, the Pennsylvania, of 30,000 tons. Germany has laid down a battleship of 35,000 tons, and Great Britain is going one better by building a ship of 40,000 tons.

Poor little Pearce is pottering along behind these figures with a modest 5 millions a year expenditure, but the profit suckers and battleship trust magnates are delighted that he has made a good start. It will not be their fault if the orders are not rapidly increased until Australia becomes a very fair market for their wares. They are making King George smile upon Pearce's system as a city pawnbroker smiles upon a suburban householder who brings him a little business. Meanwhile 5 millions which Pearce and Co. are wasting would go a long way in wiping out parasitic diseases of many kinds, and educating the workers towards the social revolution, if it was being used by a genuine Labor Party, which our present rulers are not.

No reform, moral or intellectual, ever came from the upper classes of society. Each and all came from the protest of the martyrs and victims.

The emancipation of the working people must be achieved by the working people themselves.

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The seed ye sow another reap.
The wealth ye find another keeps.
The robes ye weave another wears,
The arms ye forge another bears.

Sow seed, but let no tyrant reap;
Find wealth, let no imposter keep;
Weave robes, let not the idle wear;
Forge arms, in your defence to bear.

The Sinking Ship.

The Rats Commence to Leave.

Labor Politicians realise that economic knowledge is spreading and that the game is nearly up.

It is said that rats desert a sinking ship.

Whether it is true or not that the rat possesses such wisdom as prompts him to look out for number one in a crisis, the saying certainly reminds us of some members of the human family.

At the present time the labor politician comes readily to mind as one who knows when the psychological moment has arrived to desert.

He knows that the game of bluff is nearly up; that a knowledge of economics is spreading amongst the workers who take an interest in politics; and that his claim to be regarded as a Socialist is bogus. The Australasian Socialist Party is challenging his position, and thousands of laborites are turning a willing ear to that party, and are looking forward to its becoming a dominant factor in driving the old Liberals and Laborites into a fusion in which they can be the more effectively attacked and routed.

The politics of the labor politician are of the middle-class, or small capitalist variety, and his proposed reforms are calculated to benefit that class only. The further he goes with his reforms, the more useless they appear to the workers. He finds it harder to live on his platform as time goes on. He has to live on money borrowed from the capitalist, and the lender will not finance labor legislation. Altogether, the position of the labor politician is untenable, and he is manifesting an anxious disposition to get out of it.

In N.S.W., one of the first States to give power to a Labor Government, the disposition to "rat" has become plainly visible in the ranks of political labor. One of the first to go was Mr. Neilson, Minister for Lands in the McGowan Government, who first went abroad on a double salary, and a liberal allowance for expenses, and then announced his intention to return to the work—whatever that was—which he had given up some years ago to enter politics.

The next important secession was that of Mr. Beeby, who openly proclaimed the impossibility of the Labor Party's position. After stabbing Labor with his Industrial Disputes Act, he retires to lead the Independents in a forlorn hope.

Next was Mr. Holman, who snuffed at the post of Agent-Generalship, and openly showed a desire to get away from Australia to London.

After Mr. Holman's withdrawal Mr. McGowan loses hope, and in sheer desperation during the gas strike issued a scab proclamation to the public, and immediately thereafter begged leave to retire. Naturally "honest Jim" thought that his scab production would be the last straw on the labor camel's back, and that he had better announce his retirement before being kicked out. But no, a further surprise was in store for him. His party begged him to stay at its head a little longer, on the ground that if he went a collapse must follow.

To induce him to stay he has been told that he did splendidly during the Gas Strike, and that his notorious proclamation saved the situation.

In the Federal arena, there are similar signs, and portents of a coming debacle. It is announced that Mr. Hughes is to retire and take another job at £3500 a year,

Graduate Scabs.

Newspaper Murderers.

The Class War plainly seen during the recent Gas Strike. Society sharply divided.

By E. R. Hartley.

Of course there is no class war, that is only a figment of the fevered imagination of the Socialist. Yet, it is a curious fact that every industrial dispute finds society fairly sharply divided into two classes.

The strike of the gas workers in Sydney is full of lessons for the working class. The one they should take the most note of is the action of the University graduates. Here are a number of young men, apparently big enough and strong enough to go to work as gas stokers, labourers, etc., and able to take the place of the men on strike.

These big strong fellows have been, and are, allowed to go to school and have a good time, long after the great majority of the working class children have been compelled to take their places in the ranks of those whose work produces all the wealth.

As labor is the only source of wealth, these young men are maintained and fed by the workers, yet the moment they have the chance they begin to scab upon the workers.

Why? Because their upbringing and training has caused them to consider themselves a class apart from vulgar, common working men. When they marry and settle down, they will feel degraded if they have to go and live, in what is styled "a working class district." If they travel they will expect to go in a different class to the common people.

They would be insulted if they were asked to buy their clothes in the shops where necessity compels most workers to trade, and if they go to theatres and concerts it is only to sit in favored seats, where the prices prohibit the working man and his family from entering.

All this is so true that it seems almost too trite to repeat. It has become so much part of our daily life that it almost passes unnoticed.

Yet all these people ride on the backs of those who produce the wealth and the necessities of life.

A little later on nine-tenths of all the books and newspapers will be written and controlled by the only men who, to-day, are so ready to scab on the working class who support them. It is from this class that the speeches, which are reported will come, with the result that platform, pulpit, and Press will be dominated by the scabs of to-day.

A perusal of the ordinary newspapers will prove this to the hilt.

Columns of blither are being printed in condemnation of the men.

The Melbourne "Age" excels itself on March 7th. "Railways, tramways, coal mines, gas companies and electric companies touch the very heart of the industry at a thousand points. They are interdependent. The duty of each affects the duty of the rest. Therefore it is that when a man, or body of men, accepts service in one of these great enterprises, he is no longer a free agent to work or not to work, just as it pleases him. He is a part of a great machine, and that machine has just as much of a equitable command over his services as the general of an army has over every soldier in the face of the enemy. If the soldier is sick he may fall out of the ranks; if he deserts he is shot as a traitor. If the worker who has undertaken certain responsible duties in the body politic suddenly deserts his post, he stands in the same position as the deserting soldier."

There we have the fact stated with almost startling baldness. Of course it is wrapped up in a column and half of verbosity in which is the following gem:—

"They have exhibited a wanton disregard of everything which men esteem in fair dealing. In that, too, they display

and Mr. Hughes is most essential to the party's existence. What the party will do without "Little Billie" goodness knows, but that gentleman is not concerned so much about that as he is about getting into a softer job. Of course, Deakin being billeted, Joe Cook may be more easily managed by Messrs. Fisher and Co., but still Mr. Hughes will be a serious loss. No man could roast the enemy as he could, and roasting each other is about all there is in present-day party politics. When the party submits to Mr. Hughes' retirement, it must be because that gentleman is determined to seize the chance to go, and any day we may expect Senator Pearce and others to be seized with a similar determination, for the further the party goes the more hopeless is its outlook.

the traits of the brigand and the bandit. They lift their hands and strike at the heart of the very society which protects them."

The Society which protects them, Society does not protect them, and the writer a little later on asks that they be treated as deserting soldiers. The same writer will, if the strike develops until police and soldiers are necessary, defend the shooting which he now asks for.

If a few workmen are bruised or killed the verdict will be, "Served them right." If a gas shareholder is killed it will be murder. While if a mere newspaper editor were to have his head thumped with a club, all the Press of Australia would go into hysterics.

Let the working men remember a newspaper suggests that strikers should be shot. A little later you will find the same papers urging that working men's sons, who have been compelled to become soldiers, shall be shot if they refuse to shoot the fathers and brothers who are on strike.

Another newspaper, "The Argus," published an article nearly three weeks ago, in which the writer proved by facts and figures, to his own satisfaction, and doubtless to that of all the master class, that over 92 per cent. of all the wealth was produced by the brains, capital and inventions owned and controlled by the master class.

If such a statement had any truth in it and the workers really only produce some 7 per cent. or 8 per cent. there should be no trouble in Sydney. The Gas Company have all the brains, all the capital, and all the inventions they had a week ago, but find them utterly useless when the men's labor power is withdrawn. The University graduates have as many brains to-day as ever they had, but their brains are useless in such an emergency.

The Lord Mayor's intellect is as big as ever it was, but he had to put on a sweater and become a common laborer to be of any use.

When the "Age" writer said that society protected the gas workers, he either stated that which he knew was untrue or he is an ignoramus who writes about something he neither knows about nor understands.

The shareholders in the gas works will receive 2s in dividend for every 1s the men receive in wages.

The shareholders are absolutely useless and unnecessary, and the workmen are indispensable. A society which gives twice as much to the idle and useless as it gives to those who do its work, does not protect the workers, and the workers owe no fealty to such, and on every business maxim were justified in their late strike.

Every working man and woman in Australia is concerned for the victory of any section of the workers is a victory for all, while a defeat is also a defeat for all.

Methodists and Militarism.

On March 12, the Methodist Conference debated the Conscription Act. The Rev. W. H. Beale moved:

"That the Conference records its grave and emphatic disapproval of the compulsory clauses of the Defence Act providing for the conscription, enrolment, and training for military purposes of the community, as assailing the foundation of character, violating personal liberty, invading the sphere of parental rights and responsibilities, and inflicting serious injury upon our national life and character."

He supported his motion in an eloquent speech, and was seconded by Rev. W. G. Taylor, who said "he believed every word of it."

After a keen debate, in which some ex-military clergymen spoke for conscription, the motion was negatived on the casting vote of the chairman. The persons who spoke for militarism plainly showed the evil effects of the training they had received from those who turn down the old commandment "Thou shalt not kill."

A Slave State.

A Slave State is always ruled by those who can get round the masters; that is, by the more cunning of the slaves themselves. Thus fashionable London, like its outposts on the coast and the Riviera, is bound, body and soul, under an organised tyranny of servants and tradesmen which no spirited coolie would endure without rebellion. That is why Liberal Dukes and Radical Earls excite no surprise, whereas a Radical valet or a Liberal West-End jeweller has never yet been heard of.—G. B. Shaw.

The "International Socialist" is the official organ of the Australasian Socialist Party. It circulates in every State, and invites every worker to become a subscriber.

Socialism v. Single Tax.

A Reply to A. G. Huie.

Socialists object to the Single Tax theory because it amounts to juggling with the incidence of taxation.

By J. R. Wilson.

In your issue of March 1st I notice that a Mr. A. G. Huie takes exception to my article in a previous issue, entitled "Socialism and Single Tax," in which I demonstrated that Single Tax would not alter our relationship, to land, or solve the modern course of unemployment.

The burden of Mr. Huie's complaint to commence with is, that I have been unfair in my reference to Mr. Fels (of Fels Naptha Soap fame, England), as a prominent representative of Single Tax; and further that I have misrepresented Mr. Fels. Now if Mr. Huie had taken the trouble to read my article he would not have committed the blunder of accusing me of unfairness, and misrepresentation. What I said in this connection was as follows:—

This theory of Single Tax is founded upon what is known as the Ricardian law of rent, which says that the rent of any piece of land is determined by the amount which can be produced upon it, over and above the amount that can be produced upon the poorest of land cultivated, is the basis of Single Tax, the panacea for unemployment, and which millionaire exploiters of the Fels type (of Fels Naptha Soap fame, England) spend thousands of pounds in supporting.

Now Mr. Huie does not seek to deny that Mr. Fels is a millionaire, an exploiter, and an advocate of Single Tax, or that he spends thousands of pounds per year in supporting the Single Tax movement, but as a matter of fact, frankly admits the above to be correct. What he says in this connection is, that Mr. Fels became a millionaire before he paid any serious attention to social questions, that he declared in the plainest terms that all millionaires were robbers, including himself, and that he uses his great wealth to educate his fellow men as to the prevailing injustice and the remedy for it. To begin with let me say I am not concerned when Mr. Fels became a millionaire, as it has nothing whatever to do with the question of Single Tax as a remedy for unemployment. Further, Mr. Fels assurance that all millionaires are robbers is not required, neither did I question Mr. Fels honesty of purpose, in supporting the Single Tax movement, or his good intentions in any other respect, all that I endeavoured to do was to prove that Single Tax would not alter our relationship to land, or solve the problem of unemployment, and it matters not how good Mr. Fels's intentions are, what I claim is that Single Tax is not the remedy, and what my critical friend Mr. Huie has got to do is to meet the arguments I advanced, and this I contend he has conveniently omitted to do.

It is all very well for Mr. Huie to assert that Single Tax is the first and necessary step, what he has got to prove is that it is.

Now the common ownership, or to put it in other words, the social ownership of land is positively necessary, likewise the social ownership of the machines of production, but the Single Tax in no way makes possible the social or common ownership of either land or machines of production, and therefore, in no way tends to overthrow capitalism and production for profit I made perfectly clear, as I distinctly pointed out that those who use land to-day, rent it, and are at liberty to do so, so long as they have the money to rent it, and the implements to till it, and the only difference with Single Tax in operation would be, that instead of paying the rent to a private individual, the user of land would pay his rent to the State, which would be duty bound to secure the highest rental possible, and just as those who can afford to pay the highest rent asked for to-day can monopolise land, so under Single Tax would those who could afford to pay have the right to monopolise it, just as at present.

Again, I am told that, the Single Tax, or economic rent of land, when paid into the common Treasury of the nation, is in no sense unpaid labor of the workers and that rent is provided to pay for services to the payer, and that it comes back to him in the shape of public services.

Now, an elementary knowledge of economics will convince anyone that rent, interest, and profit, are all derived from the one common source, viz., the surplus wealth created by labor, but which those who create do not receive, and which the class who live upon the backs of the workers distribute amongst themselves, and yet we are assured that it in no way

Maniacs I have Met.

The Militarist Maniac.

The mannerisms of the militarist are peculiar.
Nearly all his actions are guided by rule
and routine.
By "Ajax."

No. 1.

Were half the power that fills the world
with terror.
Were half the wealth bestowed on camps
and courts
Given to redeem the human mind for
error,
There were no need for arsenals or forts;
The Warrior's name would be a name
abhorred.
And every nation that should lift again
its hand against a brother's, on its fore-
head
Would wear for evermore the brand of
Cain. *Longfellow.*

Long ago in the dawn of history some brutal savage took by force what belonged to his neighbor. It was an age when brute met brute, and violence reigned supreme, while reason was despised. From this barbaric ancestor the modern militarist has evolved. In this short essay one has no time to trace the evolution of militarism. The economic, social, and intellectual reasons that once made militarism a necessity, are fast vanishing, the student can study the rise and fall of military systems at leisure. In this article the writer will confine himself to the individual.

Notice an officer walking down the street. He is dressed in the blood red uniform of the British army, a color eminently befitting his profession. His clothes seem tight, heavy, and certainly not hygienic. He walks stiffly, with his chest unnaturally extended. Probably he wears stays to distort his figure to that waspish shape considered the beau ideal of military popinjays. Sometimes he wears tight legging, unhealthy garments, and judging by the specimens of area officers seen in Australia, the calves of many of these gentry are sadly in need of a bicycle pump. This person looks hot and uncomfortable in his clothes. His movements are farther impeded because he carries a long sword, an obsolete weapon, which trails awkwardly behind him. Much adroitness is required to carry this weapon properly, as it is apt to get tangled with his legs and make the officer look extremely foolish. The gait and expression of the officer is that of arrogance and pride. His manner is extremely snobbish and his language not too clean. He affects to look down on the civilian, especially the workman, with disdain. His aspect is the incarnation of conceit, and as he swaggers along in his tinseled finery he reminds one forcibly of a proud peacock which, when endeavouring to spread its feathers, shows its worst part.

The mannerisms of this individual are peculiar. Observe how he scowls ominously and clutches at his sword when he meets a Chinaman. Notice how suspiciously he eyes a foreigner, as if he were a spy. Nearly all his actions are guided by rule and routine, not by reason. He must do everything according to military etiquette. Watch how arrogant he is to his subordinates, yet if he should meet a general, his body becomes convulsed, he braces himself up and like a jack in a box his hand automatically travels to his forehead and back (a useless and unnecessary antic). He has saluted his superior officer, he must do this because being ignorant, and slavish he is obsessed with the idea of authority.

In extenuation we must remember he springs from the unpaid labor of the workers.

Further, we are told that when paid into the Treasury it comes back to him in the shape of public services.

Be the latter all that I desire to say in this connection is that under Single Tax it would in no way come back to the workers in that respect any more so than it does to-day.

It is therefore necessary that Mr. Huie should give up seeking to dismiss arguments he cannot answer, by replying to them as silly, and make an attempt to prove his case. We Socialists protest against the Single Tax theory because it amounts to juggling with the incidence of taxation, and its adoption would only result in disappointment to those who helped to bring it about. We are not out for burden shifting, we are out for the overthrow of Capitalism, which means the ownership of the world, with all its wealth and machinery by the workers themselves. This Mr. Huie will understand, when he gives up floundering about in the morass of Bourgeois economics, and settles down to a study of the economies of labor.

has been trained in the military colleges. After being taught patriotic piffle, having assimilated many false ideas, and prejudices, and graduated in snobbishness and passed his examinations in the art of murder, he can hope to matriculate in strategy. After his gruelling he probably considers that a liaison with the enemy's wife, if it will further his commander's plans is perfectly justifiable, and a chance that on no account should be missed. Having become a possible Napoleon, he now enters the army, which has been aptly termed, "The last refuge of scoundrelism."

Once in barracks his military education is farther enlarged. He is initiated into the circle of snobs, and learns that thieving, cursing, drinking, and other debasing habits are highly commendable, and should be assiduously cultivated if he wishes to advance himself. To become a proficient bully is a valuable adjunct.

The officer is never so happy as when he roars out commands and rounds up cadets, putting them through useless drill, and generally preparing them for the war that never comes. He sometimes interposes his commands with homilies drawn from his distorted imagination, on the imperative necessity of defending their country (which they don't own). He talks of the time a soldier is called upon to shoot his enemies, howbeit a soldier is never ordered to kill his enemies, always his friends.

He puts his troops through fatiguing exercises, and useless manoeuvres. He says it will make them strong, for he of the canary legs professes to know all about physical culture. Medical men have clearly demonstrated that military training is injurious and responsible for chest and lung complaints prevalent amongst troops. Their reports do not trouble him, he still insists on the obsolete routine. He knows no other, and has not the brains to think out something better. Sometimes he claims to be an organizer, yet he is incompetent to organize himself.

This individual is usually a sensualist. He has every encouragement to be so, and lacks moral restraint as medical reports demonstrate. Custom demands of him that he should drink. What with wine and women, and other debasing influences of barrack life he generally degenerates himself. This degeneracy is increased by his artificial living and brutish ideal, so that it is too much to expect that such an irrational person will be rational on any point. The rules forbid him to think for himself.

His is not to reason why
He has but to do and die.

On Sunday he is seen at his best on church parade. He is naturally superstitious, besides his gay uniform will look well against the women's dresses. His fierce and bloodthirsty countenance is toned down by a sanctimonious smile, put on for the occasion. He listens to the time-worn platitudes. Perchance he hears again the biblical story of Cain, that he learnt at his mother's knee, but it brings no blush of shame to his cheek. He has no conscience now, he threw it to the winds the day he took an oath to murder all and sundry on the word of command. He waits impatiently for the service to end, as he wishes to mingle with the overdressed women and show off his uniform, for he is vain, than the vainest woman, and frequently a rone.

It is not surprising that he harbours strange delusions. He looks upon militarism as a question by itself, supreme and anterior to all other matters. It is useless to tell him that militarism is a human question, and subordinate to the industrial problem.

It is futile to suggest that militarism is immoral. It is only mad socialists, silly quakers, and bloodthirsty anarchists who hold such ideas. He refuses to reason with these people. If the law did not prevent him (being a mental coward, he is terribly frightened of the law), he would cut them down as enemies of the King and the flag.

The militarist is officially a worshipper of flags, kings, and empires, but privately he is eager to sell his sword to the highest bidder, irrespective of king, creed, or country, for he is full of cant and unconsciously drifts into a hypocritical style of talking. He swallows the racial, religious prejudices written in the Plutist Press. He is afraid that Germany will do this, France might do that. The militarist seems to imagine that all the people living in these imaginary geographical boundaries, are going to suddenly hurl themselves against each other on the most trivial pretext, irrespective of the fact that the vast majority of people don't want war, and that it's only small cliques, led by the divinely crowned Kaiser, Bobs the bairn burner, and other butchers that create war.

The militarist still clings to medieval fallacies, and falls back upon the third

century axiom of Ventatrix, that if you want peace you must prepare for war. The illogical militarist will tell us next, "That if you want to be reasonable you must be unreasonable." There are many accepted sayings that militarists swear by that illustrate how insane they are. Perhaps this example is sufficient.

Could anything be more absurd than the childish way the militarist gets excited over trivialities. It is rumoured that a foreign power has invented a gun whose velocity is .003 times greater than ours. This is serious, he had better write an article for a magazine (controlled by war manufacturers) strongly urging that our new artillery is obsolete and unless the army is immediately roused the empire is doomed.

It is whispered in the mess that a strange boat had been seen off the Queensland coast. It may be Japanese spies. He must immediately investigate. He rushes to the barracks. Nobody there. All the officers are at a ball. He feels disappointed, no death or glory idiots are about. His eye notices the faked military pictures on the walls. According to the artist all our troops are handsome men, gallantly attired, mounted on prancing race horses, riding roughshod over the flying foe. Nearly all the dead and wounded belong to the enemy, whose soldiers look ugly, their uniforms are dirty, and their attitude cowardly. The picture is full of absurdities which our hero never notices, rather do they tend to heighten those brutal passions which he inherited. This imagination runs riot over the pictures of these butcheries and he wonders whether he will ever get the V.C. He hopes war will break out somewhere, a primitive expedition would suit him better than a European war, because in the former case he would be quite safe behind the trenches while the artillery of Christian England mowed down a mob of badly armed blacks. His fancy wanders back to the dim past when militarist maniacs carved their way to glory through scenes of murder, pillage, rapine, and desolation and he longs for a return to barbarism.

It has often been observed by social students how helpless the soldier is in industry. Once he leaves the army, he has been so degraded and demoralised that he is useless and flies to crime as a last hope, thus we find that gaols and asylums have a large proportion of their inmates who were military men.

Despite these and other facts the militarist goes on his way trying to create war scares and keep alive prejudices. The militarist must be set down as a maniac, economically he is a parasite, socially a degenerate, and mentally moribund, yet he exists because society falsely imagines that he is a necessary evil, and has not overgrown the superstitions and ignorance upon which militarism is based.

Only recently in enlightened Christian England, where freedom and justice are supposed to reign, a man was sentenced to five months' gaol because he had the manliness to tell the soldiers' sons of the people not to fire on their kith and kin during the strikes. Tom Mann went to gaol while Kutthroat Kitchener, of Omdurman infamy, who is busy advocating murder, receives £50,000 a year salary for this work.

A future generation will stand aghast and question the sanity of a society which pets and pamper murder manufacturers. They will also wonder why Australia, with its boasted democracy allowed a few politicians, jugoes, and militarist maniacs, to fust conscription on the children.

It is to be hoped that the coming generation, having the intelligence to see through the fallacies and criminality of the militarist, will recognise him as a man whose profession is murder, whose art is destruction, whose pleasure is pillage, whose wine is blood, whose perfume is the stench of rotting corpses, whose music is the roar of the maxim. In short, a degenerate and inhuman monster whose highest aspiration is to be a hired assassin.

There can be nothing more utterly subversive of all that is really valuable than the oppression of honest thought.

No man, worthy of the form he bears, will at the command of Church or State solemnly repeat a creed his reason scorns.

Mental slavery is mental death, and every man who has given up his intellectual freedom is the living coffin of his dead soul. In this sense, every church is a cemetery and every creed an epitaph.—Robert Ingersoll.

Capitalism is slavery: Socialism is freedom.

Socialism is a live coal under the feet of Capitalism.

When a worker subscribes to a Capitalist paper, he helps to furnish the ammunition with which the enemy crushes his class. When he subscribes to this paper, he furnishes ammunition to be used against Capitalism. Get subscribers.

Our Unequal Laws.

The Rich Above All Laws.

Laws aimed at thieves, strikers, vagrants,
and others do not affect the rich.
By Sydney Partridge.

We are told that here in Australia, in fact, wherever the glorious British flag waves, we have the same law for the rich and the poor. This is a seeming truth wrapped in a devilish lie. Even the very poor themselves who suffer most by the abomination of its lying cannot see through the subtlety of its prevarication. But it is so, and just so long as there are rich and poor, so long is it an impossibility that there can be laws which affect each with equal justice—or injustice. Laws aimed at thieves, at strikers, at the vagrant, "who hath not where to lay his head," cannot reach the rich. If Fat does at any time so far forget himself as to illegally purloin the possession of another, he is called kleptomaniac, and let off with a caution to his family, for no one can imagine why he should thus, if quite sane, put himself within reach of a law made in reality for the poor and needy man. He is under no necessity to do so, he is not urged on by hunger, or a failure to "make good" in any way, or lack of chance to do so. It would be scarcely veracious to say morally kept him from doing so considering that morality does not prevent his acquisition of wealth far beyond his powers of honestly collecting unaided.

The rich never need to join unions and go on strike, they can organise lock-outs, though, without being censured for it by "the Press," and the employees being snugly told that "the community is behind them to a man." Nor do the rich need to wander about at night and lie covertly in another man's field or in a public domain, till law comes to tell them to "get" or they'll be "jugged."

If a man should steal a loaf of bread for his starving children he would be put in prison—always provided he has not the luck to escape unseen. Will anyone be so ridiculous as to say this law touches rich and poor alike?

If a man wishes to divorce his wife does the law granting the dissolution of the marriage tie affect the man who gets £2 8s a week in the same degree as the man who has £10 a week? Rubbish!

Does the Conscription Act touch the sons of Fat with the same pressure as the sons of the workers? Young Fat has so many hours for training taken from his frequently well-loathed, school or from idleness. The worker's son is himself a worker and is forced to sacrifice some of his short period of leisure to the same futility. It is rank cruelty to send out a young growing child who comes home tired out after a hard day's work of men's hours to be marched up and down at the bullying orders of a lot of empty-headed noodles. Under such circumstances were unlucky enough to be one of those boys nothing short of the "officer's" blood would satisfy my resentment. Many of the lads are at just that age when they have started life as messenger boys, and their bosses constantly send them out on errands which take them back to the office long after they should have left for home. The consequence is they are late for dinner, which they have to bolt without regard to their digestion, then get into the uniform, so hideous as to be an insult to a human, which operation in some cases takes up quite half an hour on account of the extreme tightness of the garments—result, boy arrives late at the training ground, his explanations are scoffed at and he is well bullyragged and told the time must be made up.

Is the poor man's son under this infamous Act affected in exactly the like manner with the rich man's son? Is it the same law for rich and poor alike?

Until "classes" are abolished and equality is the basis of life's chances there can be no law alike for rich and poor, and in that day there will be neither rich nor poor.

"The Industrial Unionist" is the name of the latest revolutionary journal to see the light. It comes from Auckland, New Zealand, and is published by the I.W.W. Local there. The new paper is typographically well got up, and the literary matter is well written and to the point. We wish the new rebel a long life and a useful one.

When you have read this paper, do not destroy it but pass it on and watch its effect. You will be able to make many a new subscriber and many a Socialist by using the paper judiciously.

Police Persecution.

Free Speech Attacked.

Both the Lord Mayor and the Labor Chief Secretary repudiate responsibility.

Before the Labor Party achieved power the party's leaders were wont to abuse the Liberals for their leg iron policy of persecuting the workers. Such things they said, would never obtain under Labor rule, but the people would have their rights and liberties extended, while privilege and tyrannical oppression would be banished from the State forever.

Well, we have put their promises to the test, and have found that under Labor rule our liberties have been more seriously attacked than ever before. Not only has this been so, but there has been no attempt to maintain even-handed justice in places where there was at least some semblance of it before.

For many years before the advent of Labor Governments, Socialist and Religious bodies were allowed to propound their views in the streets of Sydney, and though in rare occasions, individuals were attacked by some over-zealous policeman, the authorities generally recognised the error of such attacks and allowed things to go on as before.

With Labor in power things are different. The police have seemingly been instructed that Socialist speakers must be prevented from speaking in public. The public halls Act effectively prevents Socialists from holding indoor meetings. Only religious bodies may do that. And now it seems that instructions have been issued that only religious bodies are to be allowed to speak in the public streets.

In obedience to instructions the police are waging war against Socialist speakers, while they close their eyes to those who speak for the Salvation Army and other religious organisations.

So far the record of such persecution is: Comrades Denford and Brown sentenced to 24 hours each at Wollongong. Comrade Denford 14 and Comrade Riley 7 days at the same place. Comrades Denford, Whitmore, and Mandeno, each three days at Sydney. Other Comrades have been summoned to appear on the 19th.

On Wednesday, March 12, Comrades Denford, Whitmore, and Mandeno were prosecuted before Mr. Smithers for speaking in the streets of Sydney. The case lasted nearly the whole day, and was fought inch by inch by the comrades. D. Grant, of the I.W.W., was also proceeded against at same sitting for the same offence, and he also pleaded not guilty and contested the case.

The police admitted that they were acting under instructions, but they refused to answer when asked who issued such instructions. They swore that the traffic was obstructed, but admitted that there was a space kept clear for vehicular traffic, and that the various speakers frequently asked the audience to keep the footpath clear. They flatly contradicted each other when stating the number of the audience, and said that they had never seen the Army or other religious bodies speaking before the socialist meetings commenced. One constable deposed that the audience numbered 150 and that about 70 of the number blocked the footpath while the remaining 80 stretched right across the width of the street, and absolutely blocked the traffic. Another constable deposed that the audience numbered 300, and that this number so filled one of our widest streets that neither pedestrian nor vehicular traffic could get through, but that vehicles had to turn back.

Several witnesses called for the defence contradicted the evidence of the police, and though their evidence was in the main corroborative, while that of the police was woefully contradictory, and on the face of it improbably foolish. The magistrate held that the police had proved their case and fined the accused each 10/- with 6/- costs, or three days jail.

The whole case was an apparent farce. The Socialists were to be punished and that was an end of it. The magistrate admitted that the police had contradicted each other, yet he thought their evidence correct, and convicted upon it. Which portion of it was reliable he didn't say. It could not all be correct or reliable seeing that it was so contradictory.

Of course, we know that certain city by-laws exist, but they are seldom put in force unless some Jack-in-office has a purpose to serve or a grudge against some speaker. In this case the police admitted that they had acted under instructions. Whose instructions? That is what we are entitled to know. Who has instructed them precisely, at a certain time? Who has instructed them

to wait until after the Army and other religious bodies have concluded their meetings before proceeding to take the names of Socialist speakers? Who instructs them which persons are to be summoned out of all those whose names they take, and who are to be let go? The Lord Mayor disclaims responsibility, yet a Council emissary attended court, and had a good deal to say in the prosecution. The Chief Secretary, Labor Member, Mr. Fred. Flowers, disclaims responsibility, yet the police who are under his departmental control, are instructed to prosecute Socialists.

Neither the police, the city authorities, nor the Chief Secretary will accept the responsibility for interfering with the right of free speech, yet responsibility must lie somewhere. Socialists do not obstruct the traffic, nor interfere with the police, so that the city authority and the police may be said to be irresponsible in the matter, though since Comrade Denford presented the Lord Mayor with a shovel a city functionary has been somewhat active. As, however, the Lord Mayor disclaims responsibility, we will let it go at that, and assume that the said functionary was acting outside of the Lord Mayor's instructions and the nature of his duties. Perhaps his natural in-born hatred of freedom of speech got the better of his judgment and led him to rush into the fray.

On a survey of the facts the only conclusion one can come to is, that seeing that the Political Labor Party and their legislation and Acts of Administration are being severely criticised by Socialist speakers just now, that party have determined to use the police and the courts to do what they are afraid to come out into the open and do themselves. They cannot meet Socialist argument, and are determined to put Socialists down, and prevent them from being heard. We shall see how they succeed, and how the great working class, who have had to fight such battles before, will deal with them.

A.S.P. News & Notes.

National Executive.

Branches are asked to make themselves financial to entitle them to be represented at Conference.

Branches can be represented by proxy delegates.

The Administrative Council will meet on Sat. March 22, at 3 p.m. All delegates are urged to attend.

H. L. DENFORD,
8 Stephen's Buildings, Windmill-St.
Millers Point, Sydney

SYDNEY.

One of the largest meetings for a number of years was held in the Domain on Sunday afternoon, for the purpose of protesting against the imprisonment and prosecution of Socialist and I.W.W. speakers.

Comrade Roche acted as chairman, the speakers being Mrs. Lorrimer and H. Ostler, representing the I.W.W. Club, and Mr. D. Grant, the I.W.W., and Comrades Rutherford, Jones, Mandeno, and Whitmore, the Australasian Socialist Party. Mr. Price, an old member of the S.F.A. supported the motions with a forcible speech.

The audience seemed determined that the prosecution of working class speakers must cease, and all agreed that freedom of speech is one of the most precious of our liberties. The large collection taken up for the purpose of paying the expenses in connection with the protest meetings is a record for the Domain, the amount being £8/9/5.

The prosecution of Socialists is sure to react upon those responsible, a greater interest being aroused in the Socialist propaganda thereby.

MELBOURNE BRANCH.

A.S.P.

There was a good attendance at the Collingwood meeting on Friday evening, when A. Leegan, G. Hyslop, and J. R. Wilson held forth. A number of labor supporters, however (or rather alleged labor supporters, because no man is entitled to call himself a labor supporter who is not a socialist), made themselves a pest to the last named speaker, when dealing with the dirty underhand work of the N.S.W. Labor Government, in assisting the Gas Company to defeat the men striking for 1/- per day rise in wages. One loud-mouthed blockhead, declared it was a lie, and another equally emphatic, bilious, boisterous, and muton-headed Briton, declared it was also a lie, to say the Lord Mayor was a scab. But whether such men, if one may call them men, like it or not Sydney's Lord Mayor who joined the scabs became a

common scab, and a scab-herder, and every worker who understands his position knows it. Although sufficient arguments were advanced to convince even an orang utan most of the noisy and empty-headed interrupters would not acknowledge the truthfulness of the speakers' statements. At South Melbourne Markets, Comrades Jeffrey, McLaren, Speers, Burgess, and Lazarus, did good work, despite the presence of a pipe band, which tended to disconcert the attention of the audience. The week's literature sales were not quite so good as the week previous, but the good must be taken with the bad, in the ups and downs of party propaganda.

The Yarra Bank meeting was abandoned entirely on Sunday afternoon owing to the cold wind and rain, and although the usual indoor meeting was held and Comrade Menzies the lecturer was in excellent form, the audience was far from what it would otherwise have been.

On Thursday, March 20, the Anniversary Dance of the Branch takes place. As tickets are sixpence each, a large attendance is looked for, members, however, can do a lot in making same a success if they will only secure tickets, and dispose of them amongst their friends.

The lecturers at party headquarters for the following Sundays are as follows: Sunday, 23rd: Mrs. McDonald, Subject, Easter, its Ancient Astronomical and Religious History. Sunday 30: G. Speers, Subject, Convict Days of Australia, Illustrated. Sunday, April 6th, Dr. Bottomley, Subject, The Red Plague, Illustrated. As a list of the above lectures have been sent to some 40 unions inviting their members to attend same, good results are looked from an attendance standpoint.

Arrangements are being made with the Eight Hours Committee for a literature stall in the Exhibition Buildings, and a promise has practically been given that it will be granted. However, we shall know definitely in a week's time, when arrangements will be made for a large supply of literature.

J. R. WILSON, Sec.

Brisbane.

The Brisbane Branch had a very good open air meeting last Saturday, when Comrade Rossiter was our chief spokesman. We generally have a few interjections, but these were not numerous last Saturday. On Thursday night last we held a committee meeting to draft a new syllabus for our Sunday night meetings, and a series of subjects sufficient to carry us over three months was arranged. Last Sunday evening Comrade Brown dealt with "Some Objections to Socialism" and taking some of the orthodox objections we frequently hear raised, he demonstrated their fallacies very clearly and showed how that most objections were raised against that which some people claimed would be if Socialism was accomplished but which actually are existing in present day society. Comrade Brown was very calm and deliberate in his lecture, and though enthusiastic he is never ruffled. On Sunday afternoon the Sunday School class was held, three more scholars being added to the roll. We received some good information re conducting the Sunday School from the Melbourne Branch. The latest pamphlet "Economic Discontent" is going well. We have lost one or two of our members lately who were compelled to move owing to economic pressure, no work for them here. However, we are pegging away and spreading the gospel of discontent.

Yours for revolt,

E. H. BRADY,

Hon. Sec.

Balmain.

A Social and Dance will be held in the Oddfellows' Hall, Darling Street, Balmain, on March 29. Tickets 1s. Ladies free. Refreshments provided.

A good meeting was held at Rozelle on Sat. night, Sloan speaker. Speakers are badly wanted here.

A meeting was held at Balmain on Sunday night, Nelson and Sloan speakers.

Leichhardt-Annandale.

A successful meeting was held here on Sat. night, when Kilburn and Young delivered addresses to a fair audience.

FREE SPEECH AT WOLLONGONG.

Wollongong, Sunday.—"Freedom of speech in danger" was the subject which attracted a very largely-attended protest meeting held in the Town Hall last night. Recently two members of the Socialist Party at the instance of the local council and police were fined for obstructing the footpath. They refused to pay the fine, and served sentences of 24 hours and 14 days respectively.

ences of 24 hours and 14 days respectively.

Ald. Harry Collings, who was one of the chief witnesses for the prosecution at the time the obstruction cases were heard, now presided at the meeting. He said there would have been no friction whatever if the people who had been imprisoned had taken a hall for the purpose of lecturing. It was the duty of the police to administer the law through the council's complaint, if the aldermen had any.

Mr. G. Waite (I.W.W.) moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. H. Ostler (Socialist Labor Party) and carried unanimously:—"That this meeting of citizens of Wollongong and district enters an emphatic protest against the local council and police interfering with street meetings and imprisoning the speakers, believing that such action is against the best interests of a democratic community. Further, we urge the Government and municipal bodies to make provision guaranteeing the right of freedom of speech in the streets, provided there is no serious obstruction of traffic."

Mr. Waite argued that the gospel of Christ, of which the chairman was an advocate, told them to go into the highways and byways to preach the good tidings, but these men had been imprisoned when they attempted to follow that advice and preach the gospel of humanity.

Mr. Ostler claimed there had been no obstruction of traffic. There had been no prosecution when the Premier opened the ambulance-hall in the same street.

Mr. A. Willis, president of the Hawarra Colliery Employees' Association, said that his experience in these matters taught him that the Government, the aldermen, and the police would eventually have to climb down. They had imprisoned the Socialists for telling the people unpleasant truths, which some people did not wish to hear.

Mr. Peter Bowling, secretary Hawarra miners, said that if he thought one man among the 2600 he represented agreed with such action he (Bowling) would be ashamed of him.

The other speakers in support were representatives of the Australasian Socialist Party, and the Rationalist Association.

Before putting the motion, the chairman defended his action in giving evidence against the street speakers. He said he was a Socialist, and he believed in free speech—on certain subjects. But as long as he was an alderman he would do his duty to prevent speakers causing crowds to collect in the street.

A voice: What about the Salvation Army, the town band, and the Premier? Ald. Collings retorted that the Army was a different thing altogether, and should not be brought into the case. As for his position in the council, he did not care a straw for it. He would give it to anyone in the hall for a twopenny stamp—a penny stamp if they liked.

The last remark of Ald. Collings was duly noted by those who previously thought that he was in the Council from a sense of public spirit. His public spirit amounts to the value of a penny stamp. It is plain that he occupies a seat in the Council for other reasons, one of which is that he would put down all opinions excepting his own.

Anything is likely to happen here within the next week. Russell is still victimised and is likely to be. At miners' lodge meetings the police are always present. On Saturday a meeting was called of the South Bulli Lodge to discuss the victimisation of two anti-socialists. The police put in an appearance. They were asked to leave the union meeting. They point blank refused. The chairman adjourned the meeting till Monday. As we are going to press we cannot deal further with Labor Party police methods in this district. A successful street meeting was held Sunday night.

SUPPORT FROM KING P.L.L.

At a meeting of the King P.L.L. a resolution was carried, on the motion of Mr. Brierly, protesting against the prosecution of the I.W.W. speakers in Bathurst Street, considering that religious meetings were allowed on the same spot. It was further resolved to hold an open-air meeting in Bathurst Street to assert the right of free speech. Messrs. J. K. West, M.P., and J. J. Morrish, M.L.A., to be invited to address the meeting.

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